

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 13, 2003. Claims 1-31 are pending with claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 being in independent form. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 18, 19, 30 and 31 to clarify the claimed invention and place the claims in better form for examination. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is introduced by the claim amendments.

Claims 30 and 31 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as purportedly being of improper dependent form. Claims 18 and 19 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as purportedly being a substantial duplicate of claims 12 and 13.

Claims 18, 19, 30 and 31 have been amended hereby. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,052,445 to Bashoura et al. Claims 2, 5, 6, 12-14, 18, 19, 21 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bashoura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,437,871 to Yuki. Claims 3, 4, 15-17, 23, 24, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bashoura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,381,527 to Inniss et al. Claims 7, 8, 21 and 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bashoura in view of Inniss and further in view of Yuki. Claims 20, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bashoura.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the

following reasons.

This application relates to a network facsimile device wherein an operator is provided with means for input of destination addresses, each address including a plurality of address information (for example, an IP address, an electronic mail address and a telephone number) respectively corresponding to a plurality of communication modes. The address information respectively corresponding to the plurality of communication modes, input by the operator through the input means, for each destination are registered, so that each of the communication modes can be used for transmitting image information to one of the registered destinations using the corresponding registered address information. As discussed in the background section of the application, it would be too costly to provide individual operation keys on the network facsimile device for designating address information. Therefore, an improved network facsimile device is provided by this application which is capable of reducing the number of keys for selecting the dial information of the destination address to which designated image information is to be communicated.

For example, independent claim 1 is directed to a network facsimile device for communicating in at least one of a plurality of communication modes for transmitting designated image information to a designated destination. The network facsimile device comprises input means for operator input of information identifying a plurality of destination addresses, including for each destination a plurality of address information respectively corresponding to the plurality of communication modes, and for designating one address among the plurality of addresses, and address information registering means for registering the plurality of address information respectively

corresponding to the plurality of communication modes, input by the operator through the input means, for each destination.

Bashoura, as understood by Applicant, appears to be directed to a fax routing system and method which uses a fax director device along with a standard fax machine and a personal computer. The fax director decodes a telephone number which is generated by the fax machine, and then compares the decoded telephone number to a look-up table. If a corresponding Internet address is found in the table, the fax is downloaded from the fax machine, converted to a computer file, and then sent to the matched Internet address. However, if no corresponding Internet address is found in the table, the decoded telephone number is dialed on a telephone line and, thereafter, the telephone line is connected to the fax machine for normal fax delivery.

Therefore, the conventional fax machine in the fax routing system of Bashoura allows an operator to enter only a telephone number, and the fax director of Bashoura is a separate device which is connected to the conventional fax machine.

Moreover, the fax director of Bashoura does not disclose or suggest a network facsimile device for communicating in at least one of a plurality of communication modes for transmitting designated image information to a designated destination which comprises input means for operator input of information identifying a plurality of destination addresses, including for each destination a plurality of address information respectively corresponding to the plurality of communication modes, and for designating one address among the plurality of addresses, and address information registering means for registering the plurality of address information respectively corresponding to the plurality of communication modes, input by the

operator through the input means, for each destination, as provided by independent claim 1 as amended.

Yuki, as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile apparatus with adaptors for communication with plural partners through a public switched telephone network, a local area network and an integrated services digital network. The Office Action cites Yuki as purportedly disclosing (a) a facsimile apparatus having a display means for displaying registered address information stored in memory, and (b) a one-touch dial operation.

Inniss, as understood by Applicant, relates to a method and system for distribution of messages utilizing a data processing system, wherein a distribution channel is selected in response to a user selection of a particular distribution media. If transmission via the selected distribution channel fails, an alternate distribution media is selected and the message is converted to that alternate distribution media. The Office Action cites Inniss as purportedly disclosing prioritizing the distribution media.

Applicant does not find disclosure or suggestion in the cited art, however, of a network facsimile device for communicating in at least one of a plurality of communication modes for transmitting designated image information to a designated destination, wherein the network facsimile device comprises input means for operator input of information identifying a plurality of destination addresses, including for each destination a plurality of address information respectively corresponding to the plurality of communication modes, and for designating one address among the plurality of addresses, and address information registering means for registering the plurality of address information respectively corresponding to the plurality of

communication modes, input by the operator through the input means, for each destination, as provided by the claimed invention recited in amended claim 1.

Since the cited art does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention, claim 1 is believed to be allowable thereover. Independent claims 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 are patentable over the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.


The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an additional extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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